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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

25X1A

COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

DATE DISTR. 3 February 1947

SUBJECT Possible Negotiations between Social Democrats and Communists

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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

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1. Prominent members of the People's Party are disturbed by reports that conferences were held recently between leaders of the Social Democratic and Communist Parties. At one meeting the Communists apparently threatened to put Zdenek Fierlinger, ousted Social Democratic Chairman, and Evzen Erban on the Communist ticket unless the Social Democrats stopped trying to block the two men from important party positions. By including Fierlinger and Erban the Communists could be expected to draw a considerable section of left-wing votes away from the Social Democrats at the coming elections. The Communists also demanded that the Social Democrats give a clear statement of their economic policy; to this, the latter are said to have replied that they would support Communist economic policies providing they received more top positions in the Government.

(Comment: [REDACTED] gives details on the secret conference which Lau men, Social Democratic Chairman, held recently with Hala, Deputy Chairman of the People's Party. During the meeting the parties appeared to reach an agreement on certain pre-election issues.)

2. According to another report, the Communists suggested that they run a joint ticket with the Social Democrats, with the latter receiving most of the additional National Assembly mandates picked up at the elections. The Social Democrats apparently rejected this offer.

3. [REDACTED] the Communists will try to attract Right-wing votes by forming two new parties before the next elections. One, a "small farmers party", would approximate the Small Holders Party in Hungary. The other, as a "national front for democracy", would use "non-political" leaders from cultural circles to appeal to the intelligensia.

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